

Representative Bill Taylor of South Carolina was first elected to the General Assembly in 2010. He serves on the Education and Public Works Committee and is Chairman of the Higher Education subcommittee. (more)

2017 ALEC Member Survey

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey. Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

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Events and Education - August 15, 2017



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ALEC Headline News

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Americans Need Tax Cuts, Plain and Simple

Jonathan Williams I The Hill



ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams writes how America has "fallen behind by simply standing still," in his latest piece in The Hill. He goes on to write that the key to making America competitive again is simple: simplify the tax code... (more)

Will Congress Censor Reddit in the Name of Combatting Sex Trafficking? Jonathon Hauenschild I The Hill



ALEC Communications and Technology Task Force Director Jonathon Hauenschild offers two different approaches companies like Reddit, Facebook, Twitter and Amazon might take to combat online sex trafficking... (more)

Trouble Draining the Swamp? Try Returning Power Back to the States Taylor McCarty I The Hill



ALEC Public Affairs team member Taylor McCarty sounds the warning of our founding fathers in her column in The Hill. McCarty writes, "Power must be returned from the unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats of the political class as well as the legislature....to truly drain the swamp, and return power to the states"... (more)

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech I Tax Reform

- Center to Protect Free Speech "First Fridays" Call will return in September. Please join the Center in September for a back-to-school themed call that will focus campus speech and the Forming Open and Robust Minds (FORUM) Act with special guest Casey Mattox of Alliance Defending Freedom... (RSVP HERE)
- Center for State Fiscal Reform Keep an eye on your inbox. With federal tax reform on the rise, the Center will be hosting a series of weekly interactive calls on federal tax cut and reform legislation. These will serve to provide timely updates on progress as well as to solicit feedback from our legislators and private sector members.

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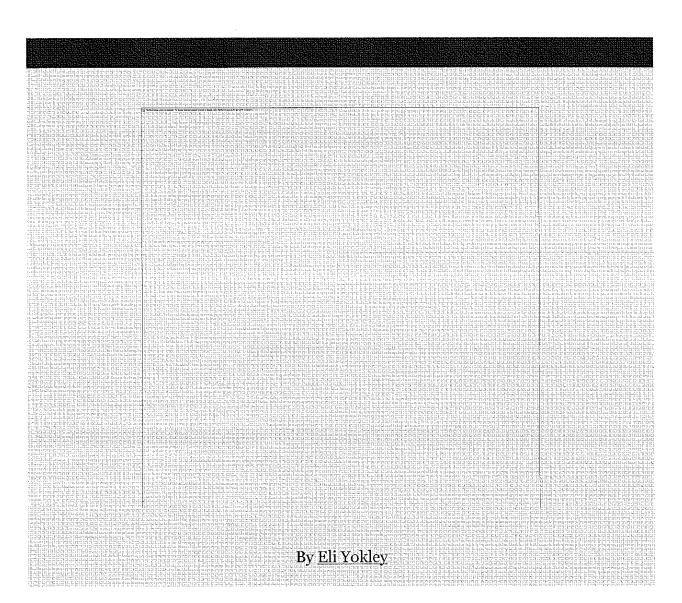
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Subject: Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic

Payments Coalition: Trump's Approval Rating Falls Below 40% for First Time

Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



Top Stories

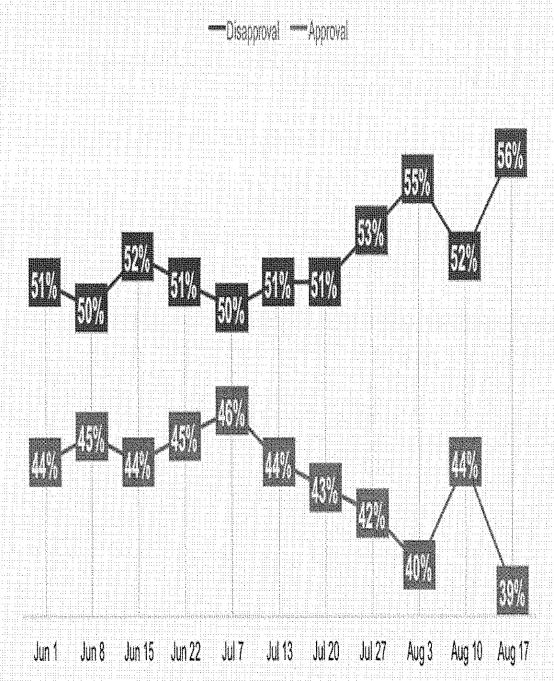
- President Donald Trump's approval rating among registered voters fell to a new low, according to a new poll. Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they approve of his job performance, compared with 56 percent who disapprove. (Morning Consult)
- Trump threatened to shut down the government if Congress does not fund his proposed border wall in next month's spending debate. During Tuesday's campaign rally in Arizona, he also said the North American Free Trade Agreement is likely to be terminated. (<u>The Washington Post</u>)
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has privately expressed doubts that Trump can deliver on his policy agenda after a series of political crises this summer. The relationship between the two men is frayed - they have not spoken to each other in weeks. (<u>The New York Times</u>)
- Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) and Gov. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) hope to testify before a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing next month about stabilizing the health insurance market, as the congressional panel considers smaller, bipartisan proposals to health care policy. (Roll Call)

Chart Review

<u>Trump's Approval Rating Dips Below 40% for First Time After Charlottesville</u>

Morning Consult

Trump's Approval Rating Tanks After Charlottesville



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

No events scheduled

THURSDAY

Heritage Foundation event: Protecting Public Employees' First Amendment Rights p.m.

12

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

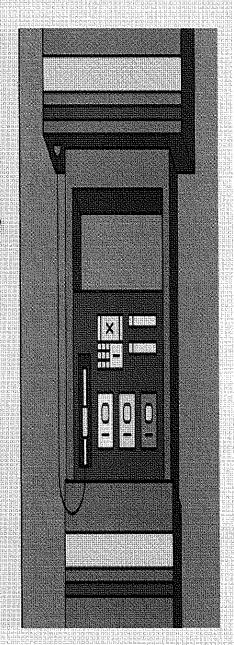
\$2 BILLION That's how much theft

from gas station skimmers cost consumers in 2014.

The Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC) has tips to help you protect yourself when you're filling up at home or traveling far and wide this summer.



LEARN MORE FROM EPC



General

<u>U.S. Navy Relieves Admiral of Command After Collisions</u> Gordon Lubold, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. Navy removed the commander of the fleet that has suffered four recent collisions in Asia and the deaths of several sailors, the Pacific Fleet said in a statement. The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the Navy was planning to remove Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin -the three-star commander of U.S. Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan-though officials had declined to comment.

U.S. sanctions Chinese and Russian companies and individuals for conducting business with North Korea Carol Morello and Peter Whoriskey, The Washington Post

As part of a broad effort to isolate North Korea, the Treasury Department on Tuesday placed sanctions on Chinese and Russian individuals and firms it said had conducted business with the country in ways that advanced its missile and nuclear weapons program. The sanctions against 10 companies and six individuals are designed to disrupt the economic ties that have allowed Pyongyang to continue funding its missile and nuclear program despite strict United Nations sanctions prohibiting it.

Clooney Foundation for Justice Donates \$1 Million to Combat Hate Groups in Wake of Charlottesville Rebecca Rubin, Variety

The Clooney Foundation for Justice, led by George and Amal Clooney, gave a \$1 million grant to help the Southern Poverty Law Center combat hate groups in wake of recent white nationalist gatherings in Charlottesville, Va. "We are proud to support the Southern Poverty Law Center in its efforts to prevent violent extremism in the United States. What happened in Charlottesville, and what is happening in communities

across our country, demands our collective engagement to stand up to hate," George and Amal said in a statement.

Emails: Breitbart editor pledges to do 'dirty work' for Bannon, smears Ivanka Oliver Darcy and Jake Tapper, CNN

A self-described "email prankster" seemingly fooled top editors at Breitbart over the weekend into believing he was Steve Bannon, the fired White House chief strategist who returned to the right-wing website as executive chairman on Friday. In the emails, Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow pledged that he and several other top editors would do Bannon's "dirty work" against White House aides.

<u>Hillary Clinton: My "skin crawled" when Trump stood behind me</u> Shane Savitsky, Axios

MSNBC's Morning Joe has the first batch of excerpts from "What Happened," Hillary Clinton's forthcoming memoir on the 2016 presidential election, which feature her reflecting why she wrote the book and on President Trump's intimidation tactics that made her "skin [crawl]" during their second, town hall-style debate. Her reason for writing: "I want to pull back the curtain on an experience that was exhilarating, joyful, infuriating, and just plain humbling."

<u>Is Anybody Home at HUD?</u> Alec MacGillis, New York Magazine

In mid-May, Steve Preston, who served as the secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the final two years of the George W. Bush administration, organized a dinner at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, D.C., for the new chief of that department, Ben Carson, and five other former secretaries whose joint tenure stretched all the way back

to Gerald Ford. It was an event with no recent precedent within the department, and it had the distinct feel of an intervention.

Presidential

<u>Trump threatens shutdown, suggests controversial pardon at Arizona rally</u> John Wagner et al., The Washington Post

President Trump on Tuesday threatened to shut down the government over border wall funding, said the North American Free Trade Agreement is likely to be terminated and signaled that he was prepared to pardon former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, who is anathema to the Latino community. Trump's freewheeling comments came at a boisterous campaign rally here during which he also went on an extended diatribe about the media, blaming reporters for the negative fallout he has received over his responses to the hate-fueled violence in Charlottesville.

<u>More Voters Want Pence as President Than Trump, Poll Shows</u> Anna Gronewold, Morning Consult

In a choice between the president of the United States and his second-incommand, more voters say Vice President Mike Pence should take charge of the country. A Morning Consult/POLITICO poll conducted Aug. 17-19 found 34 percent of registered voters said they'd rather have Pence as president than Donald Trump, if they had to choose.

<u>Kushner in Middle East for peace talks</u> **Annie Karni, Politico**

While everyone was busy gazing into the solar eclipse on Monday, White House adviser Jared Kushner quietly snuck away to the Middle East for a trip that will take him to the Persian Gulf and Israel. Accompanying Kushner on Monday in the Gulf states were deputy National Security

Adviser Dina Powell, and Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, a White House official said.

A coal country dispute over an alleged Trump promise unmet Jeff Horwitz et al., The Associated Press

The Trump administration has rejected a coal industry push to win a rarely used emergency order protecting coal-fired power plants, a decision contrary to what one coal executive said the president personally promised him. The Energy Department says it considered issuing the order sought by companies seeking relief for plants it says are overburdened by environmental rules and market stresses.

Senate

<u>Trump and McConnell Locked in a Cold War, Threatening the G.O.P. Agenda</u> Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin, The New York Times

The relationship between President Trump and Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, has disintegrated to the point that they have not spoken to each other in weeks, and Mr. McConnell has privately expressed uncertainty that Mr. Trump will be able to salvage his administration after a series of summer crises. What was once an uneasy governing alliance has curdled into a feud of mutual resentment and sometimes outright hostility, complicated by the position of Mr. McConnell's wife, Elaine L. Chao, in Mr. Trump's cabinet, according to more than a dozen people briefed on their imperiled partnership.

<u>Senate Health Panel Will Hear From Governors, Insurance Leaders</u>

Mary Ellen McIntire, Roll Call

The Senate's key health care panel announced plans to hear from governors and state insurance commissioners early next month about ways to rein in rising prices for medical insurance purchased directly by consumers. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Tuesday set a hearing Sept. 6 with state insurance commissioners and another on Sept. 7 with governors.

Obamacare votes muddle Sen. Dean Heller's message in tough re-election bid Eliza Collins, USA Today

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is struggling to get his messaging straight. And it's becoming a problem, because Heller - who won his last election by just 1 percentage point - is one of the most vulnerable GOP senators trying to keep his seat in the 2018 midterm elections.

<u>Former Romney aide enters GOP primary to unseat Warren</u> **Max Greenwood**, The Hill

Beth Lindstrom, who served as an aide to former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R), is mounting a bid to challenge Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) for her Senate seat. Lindstrom, a former consumer affairs director for Romney, cast herself in a video announcement as an "independent-minded Republican," saying "there's plenty of blame to go around" in Washington.

House

<u>Party</u> Heidi M. Przybyla, USA Today

If there is a Democratic wave election in 2018, the tide will probably bring in individuals like Brendan Kelly, a state's attorney in St. Clair County and former Navy officer who's never run for the state legislature or Congress. For Democrats like 41-year-old Kelly - a clean-cut Irishman and University of Notre Dame alum who's prosecuted corruption on both sides of the aisle and sat on the school board - entering national politics is no longer distasteful. It's necessary.

<u>Gowdy and Mulvaney tweak each other on Twitter</u> Kyle Cheney, Politico

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) appeared to get into a pointed but apparently good-natured Twitter tiff Tuesday with Trump administration budget chief Mick Mulvaney, a fellow South Carolinian and former House member. Mulvaney tweeted a barb about Gowdy's famously shapeshifting mop of hair and joked that he'd buy Gowdy a comb and razor for his 60th birthday. Gowdy just turned 53.

States

Democratic gubernatorial candidates plunge into Confederate fight

Daniel Strauss and Negassi Tesfamichael, Politico

The white supremacist march that turned violent in Charlottesville, Virginia, is spurring a wave of Democratic governors and gubernatorial candidates to call for Confederate monuments in their states to come down. The push offers Democrats an opportunity to take on President Donald Trump and mobilize the base ahead of the 2018 elections - though some strategists say the focus should be on bread-and-butter issues rather than a revived culture war.

<u>Iowa Seeks Ambitious Waiver to Reshape Health Law Within Its Borders</u>

Anna Wilde Mathews et al., The Wall Street Journal

Iowa officials filed a federal application to alter major aspects of the Affordable Care Act next year, the most ambitious so far of a growing crop of state efforts to tweak the health law with the goal of shoring up individual insurance markets. Iowa's proposal, which state officials said they are already preparing to implement pending federal approval, would go the furthest in revamping the health law's rules, and its path will be closely watched in other states as Republican efforts to overhaul the ACA at the federal level appear stalled.

<u>Trump signs resolution to improve safety at Metro</u> Martine Powers, The Washington Post

President Trump signed a resolution Tuesday giving final approval to the long-awaited Metro Safety Commission, the last legislative step in the years-long effort to establish an oversight organization tasked with making Metro safer. But there's plenty more that must still happen before the new agency is up and running.

Gov. Greitens stays execution of Marcellus Williams in 1998 murder Jason Hancock, The Kansas City Star

Hours before Marcellus Williams was to be put to death for the 1998 murder of a former newspaper reporter, Gov. Eric Greitens issued a stay of execution and appointed a board to look into the case." A sentence of death is the ultimate, permanent punishment," Greitens said in a statement Tuesday afternoon.

Advocacy

With alumni in the White House, Goldman sees an opening Barney Jopson, Financial Times

When Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman Sachs' chairman and chief executive, arrived at the Rayburn building on Capitol Hill in late 2010, he was battered and bruised. At the time his bank was viewed as a vivid example of Wall Street misbehaviour.

UPS CEO says tax reform could deliver more jobs to its Louisville air hub Lawrence Smith, WDRB

A tax cut for UPS could deliver more jobs to Louisville. UPS Chairman and CEO David Abney, along with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, came to Louisville on Tuesday to push tax reform.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

Taking a road trip to escape the heat this summer? Watch out for skimmers at gas stations, which can steal your card data-including PINs-and cause you a headache during your vacation. <u>Learn more</u> from EPC.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

<u>Trump's welcome self-correction</u> Editorial Board, The Washington Post

President Trump offered in his speech on Afghanistan Monday a rare but welcome story of self-correction. His "original instinct," he said, was "to pull out" of the country, but after studying the issue with his advisers over several months he realized that "the consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable."

Mr. Trump Sides With Wall Street; You Lose The Editorial Board, The New York Times

The Trump administration has no grounds for blocking the "fiduciary rule," an Obama-era regulation that requires financial advisers to put their clients' interests first when giving advice or selling investments for retirement accounts. But blocking the rule remains an administration priority, no matter how arbitrary, capricious and harmful that would be.

<u>Trump's Afghan Commitment</u> The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump inherited a mess in Afghanistan, so give him credit for heeding his generals and committing to more troops and a new strategy. His decision has risks, like all uses of military force, but it will prevent a rout of our allies in Kabul and allow more aggressive operations against jihadists who would be delighted to plan global attacks with impunity.

<u>Polls Show Trump Cratering? Not So Fast</u> Steve Kornacki, NBC News

Diagnosing the state of President Donald Trump's political health should be a simple matter. The story that the traditional metrics tell is straightforward.

<u>Fake Polls Are A Real Problem</u> Harry Enten, FiveThirtyEight

Is Kid Rock leading the U.S. Senate race in Michigan? A story like that is essentially designed to go viral, and that's exactly what happened when Delphi Analytica released a poll fielded from July 14 to July 18.

A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:

\$2 BILLION! That's how much theft from gas station skimmers cost consumers in 2014. The Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC) has <u>tips to help you protect yourself</u> when you're filling up at home or traveling far and wide this summer.

Research Reports and Polling

Trump's Approval Rating Dips Below 40% for First Time After Charlottesville Cameron Easley, Morning Consult

Americans are taking a dimmer-than-ever view of President Donald Trump's job performance following his response to the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., earlier this month, when a woman was killed after a man aligned with one of the extremist groups allegedly drove a car through a crowd of counter-protesters. A new Morning Consult/POLITICO survey of 1,987 registered voters, conducted Aug. 17 through Aug. 19, shows 39 percent of respondents approve of the president while 56 percent disapprove, putting him 17 points underwater - the worst net rating he's posted since taking office.

<u>US Senator Jeff Flake in Double Electoral Jeopardy Twelve</u> <u>Months Away from Primary Election</u> **HighGround Public Affairs Consultants**

A statewide Arizona survey of 400 likely Arizona 2018 General Election voters shows Republican incumbent Senator Jeff Flake fourteen points behind his primary Republican opponent Kelli Ward and eight points behind prospective Democratic opponent U.S. Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (D, AZ-9). The Republican Primary Election sample was of 273 high efficacy Republican and PND/Independent voters and has a margin of error of $\pm 5.93\%$.





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Jonathan Williams Sits Down With The Daily Signal

Jonathan Williams I The Daily Signal



Jonathan Williams joins Genevieve Wood of The Daily Signal at The Heritage Foundation to discuss ALEC and the Center for State Fiscal Reform... (more)

ALEC Headline News

Ronald Lampard Discusses the Opioid Crisis on Tipping Point

Ronald Lampard I One America Network - Tipping Point



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Ronald Lampard, Director of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, discusses the national opioid crisis with Stephanie Hamill.... (more)

Expert Insight

Want to be an Interior Designer? Wait Six Years to be Legally Licensed Tom McLaughlin I Red Alert Politics

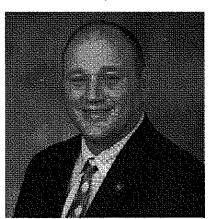


Tom McLaughlin of ALEC explains the reality of today's occupational licensing. In a *Red Alert Politics* article, he exposes one of many excessive state licensing regulations—in this case, a six-year certification process for interior designers... (more)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

= ASenator Denny Hoskins I MO-21



Senator Denny Hoskins, represents District 21 in the Missouri Senate. In 2016 he was elected to serve in the Missouri Senate. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 and elected to the office of Speaker Pro Tem in 2013. .. (more)

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech I Tax Reform

- Center to Protect Free Speech "First Fridays" Call will return September 8th at 11:00
 AM EDT, for a back-to-school themed call. (RSVP)
- Center for State Fiscal Reform Keep an eye on your inbox. The Center will be hosting a series of weekly calls to provide timely updates on tax reform legislation.

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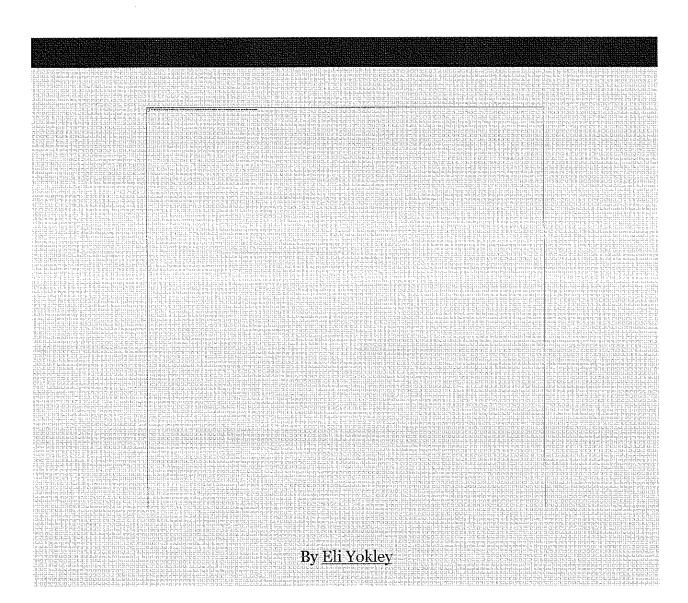
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Subject: Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic

Payments Coalition: Week in Review & What's Ahead

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Week in Review

The White House

- President Donald Trump <u>signed a directive banning transgender</u> <u>people</u> from joining the military. He also instructed the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate what to do with transgender people who are currently serving.
- Trump pardoned former Arizona Sheriff <u>Joe Arpaio</u>, who had been convicted of criminal contempt for not following a judge's order to stop detaining Latinos solely on suspicions about their immigration status.
- <u>Sebastian Gorka</u>, a former Breitbart staffer who served as a deputy assistant to Trump, is no longer part of the administration. A White House official said Gorka did not resign, but confirmed that he is no longer employed at the White House.
- Trump threatened to shutdown the federal government if Congress does not include funding for his proposed border wall in a forthcoming spending measure that needs to be passed before Oct. 1 to avoid a shutdown.
- North Korea used multiple-rocket launchers to test three short-range missiles, the first such test since it launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month and threatened the United States.
- Trump outlined a <u>new strategy</u> for the war in Afghanistan in a primetime address. The administration's plan includes sending 3,900 additional U.S. troops to the country.
- The president's <u>approval rating fell to a new low</u> following his response to the deadly protest in Charlottesville, Va. on Aug. 12,

with 39 percent of voters saying they approve of his job performance, compared with 56 percent who said they disapprove.

Congress

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) pushed back on media reports of a growing divide between him and Trump, saying in a statement that they're both "committed to advancing our shared agenda together."
- Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) faced more criticism from Trump, whose attacks were featured in a <u>campaign commercial</u> by Flake's top Republican challenger, former state Sen. Kelli Ward. Trump met with other possible Republican <u>primary challengers</u> during his visit to Phoenix.
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) took some flak from constituents during a town hall in his congressional district hosted by CNN. He later visited Oregon to tout the GOP's tax plan and said he's confident the House would pass the proposal by year's end.
- Missouri state Rep. Marsha Haefner said she's considering a campaign for the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill next year. Irked by the focus of party brass on state Attorney General Josh Hawley, she met with consultants in Washington about a possible campaign.
- Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) <u>reversed course</u> and said he will run for re-election in Colorado's Seventh District next year. He previously sought the Democratic nomination for governor in 2018 but dropped his bid in July.

What's Ahead

- Congress will reconvene on Sept. 5.
- Trump is expected to travel to Missouri this week to campaign for tax reform. Hawley, the state's top GOP prospect to run for Senate next year, will not be in attendance. One of his top backers recently wrote an opinion piece urging Republicans to "disassociate ourselves from Trump."
- Five governors Charlie Baker (R-Mass.), Steve Bullock (D-Mont.), Bill Haslam (R-Tenn.), Gary Herbert (R-Utah) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) are slated to discuss bipartisan fixes to the <u>Affordable Care Act</u> at a hearing on Capitol Hill. Their testimony will follow another hearing with state insurance commissioners.
- A judge in New Jersey <u>denied requests</u> by Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez's lawyers to delay his corruption trial or let them explain his absence to a jury if the trail interferes with Senate votes. Oral arguments are set to begin Sept. 6.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

MONDAY

Brookings Institution event on criminal justice reform

10 a.m.

Cato Institute on the politics of 'Game of Thrones'

6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

National Press Club lunch event with new NAACP President Derrick Johnson

12:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

AEI event on retirement income

10 a.m.

Heritage Foundation event on Iran

12 p.m.

THURSDAY

Brookings Institution event on global financial ecosystem

10 a.m.

National Press Club book event with Sheryl Attkisson

6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

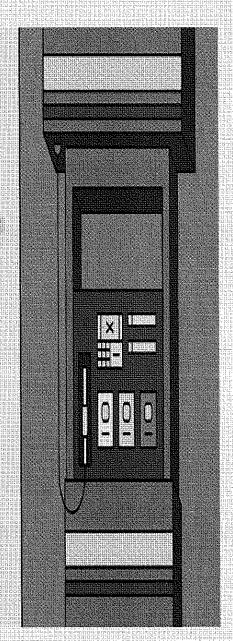
\$2 BILLONI That's how much theft

from gas station skimmers cost consumers in 2014.

The Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC) has tips to help you protect yourself when you're filling up at home or traveling far and wide this summer.



LEARN MORE FROM EPC



Morning Consult Washington Top Reads

- 1) Trump threatens shutdown, suggests controversial pardon at Arizona rally
 John Wagner et al., The Washington Post
- 2) Ryan faces heat back home in Wisconsin Rachael Bade, Politico
- 3) McConnell, in Private, Doubts if Trump Can Save Presidency Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin, The New York Times
- **4)** <u>Is Anybody Home at HUD?</u> Alec MacGillis, New York Magazine
- 5) Trump's Approval Rating Dips Below 40% for First Time After Charlottesville
 Cameron Easley, Morning Consult
- **6)** Navy orders 7th Fleet review amid search for 10 from McCain Lolita C. Baldor, The Associated Press
- 7) Emails: Breitbart editor pledges to do 'dirty work' for Bannon, smears <u>Ivanka</u>
 Oliver Darcy and Jake Tapper, CNN
- **8)** A Second Korean War Could Quickly Spread Across All of Asia Brendan Scott and Adrian Leung, Bloomberg
- 9) <u>Senate Health Panel Will Hear From Governors, Insurance Leaders</u> Mary Ellen McIntire, Roll Call
- **10)** White House Sets Rules for Military Transgender Ban Gordon Lubold, The Wall Street Journal





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Center for Innovation and Technology

When Innovation Disrupts Policing, Citizens, Municipalities and Police Win



Police forces often face budget challenges and time crunches – little money and more work than time allows. In this environment, technological innovations can come slowly, expensive, difficult to deploy and integrate. The challenges for police are not much different than the challenges most people face. With lack of time and stretched resources, even important, unexpected or non-routine tasks become hard to complete. In Texas there is innovation, in law and in technology, to help both the police and the public.

The law in Texas was changed two years ago to allow, and now the technology provides, a means for drivers to pay their past due traffic tickets on the spot even after a warrant for their arrest had been issued for failure to pay. <u>Techsiq</u>, a company that "provides police departments technologies and solution-sets designed to efficiently drive compliance, while increasing public safety," has introduced a product and service called <u>WarrantPaylQ</u> that enables the process and gives life to the advantages provided for in the law.

Before the legal change and the new technology, a law enforcement would pull over a motorist and during the stop they might become aware that the driver has an outstanding warrant for their arrest due to unpaid traffic tickets. The police would then have to place the driver under arrest, guide them through the expensive jail booking process, put them in jail, so they then could appear before the court. Their car would be impounded and child they had with them, assuming no relative was available to retrieve them, would be given over to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

This series of unfortunate events can be curtailed. Instead of the driver being arrested they have the option to pay the outstanding fines with a debit or credit card. The officer hands the driver a piece of hardware that looks much like a mobile phone nestled in a larger plastic casing. Through easy prompts the driver can pay their fines, ultimately swiping their credit or debit card. Once the fine is taken care of, the family continues on its way. Even with this new law and technology in place, the driver will still have the option to be taken to jail and face the court and contest the fine and warrant.

The benefits to society are obvious. Law enforcement runs more efficiently. instead of time and resources are prioritized to the most serious offenders, hence relieving jail crowding. Having the fines paid with less hassle and expense provides the anticipated resources to the jurisdiction to meet their budgetary expectations. But most importantly, citizens have a means for avoiding the embarrassment, disruption and additional costs associated with being arrested and taken to jail.

Innovation can disrupt processes, organizations and even whole industries often causing confusion and angst until a new means of operation emerges. In this case, the citizens are the winners and the winning effects immediate.

Sincerely,

Bartlett Cleland

Director

Center for Innovation and Technology

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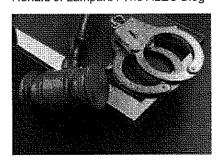


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Arizona Govenor Ducey Recognizes Importance of Re-entry Programs Ronald J. Lampard I The ALEC Blog



Under Gov. Ducey's leadership, Arizona has identified the benefits of re-entry programs. Roughly 95% of all state and federal inmates will leave prison at some point in their lives... (more)

Expert Insight

A Huge Donor Disclosure Threat Shelby Emmett I The ALEC Blog

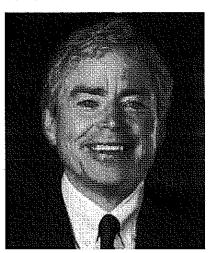


At all levels of government, lawmakers are drafting bills to chill the free speech rights of individuals including proposals that would force nonprofit organizations to reveal donor names... (more)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Don Huffines I TX-16



Senator Don Huffines is a sixth-generation Texan. He is a first term senator in the Texas legislature representing the 16th district, which encompasses the north half of Dallas County. His main legislative interests are in the fields of law, economics, and criminal justice... (more)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL Sept. 8th Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



On Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. Please joinPublic Chair Sen. Leah Vukmir, Center Director Shelby Emmett, Rep. Kim Coleman and Casey Mattox to discuss the Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act...(RSVP)

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

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From: Senator Leah Vukmir

Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 8:01 PM

To: Rep07

Subject: REMINDER: Campus Free Speech Policy Call – SEPT. 8th, 11 AM EDT

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Dear Thomas,

[This is a special reminder] to join me, the Center to Protect Free Speech Director Shelby Emmett and Alliance Defending Freedom's Casey Mattox on Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT for a "First Fridays" conference call focused on the new ALEC model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.

Call Details: Sept. 8 @ 11 AM EDT RSVP Conference Call FORUM Act info

This new model provides a clear path forward for state legislators. The challenge we face is determining the right action that encourages rather than chills free speech on campus.

Click Here to RSVP

Sincerely,

Senator Leah Vukmir
The Center to Protect Free Speech

Public Chair

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Center to Protect Free Speech - September 5, 2017



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"First Fridays" Call September 8th - Campus Speech

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org

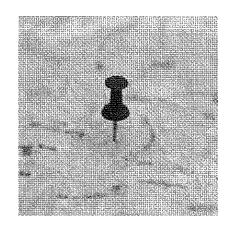


This Friday, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call on our model policy to protect free speech on college campuses. Join us to discuss the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act... (RSVP)

ALEC Issue Briefings

Free Speech Briefings in Your State

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org



The Center to Protect Free Speech is holding free speech issue briefings at state Capitols across the United States.

If you are interested in having a free speech issue briefing in your state, click below and Shelby Emmett will reach out to you with more information.

Schedule Your Briefing.

Expert Insight

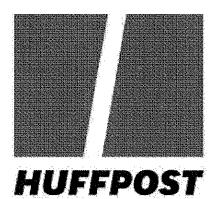
How I Brought Free Speech Reform (and Tomi Lahren) to my Campus Giovanni Triana I Red Alert Politics



Former ALEC intern Giovanni Triana tells of his experience with speech zones and his work to reform speech codes at East Carolina University... (more)

Expert Opinion

Setting the Record Straight on HUFFPOSTShelby Emmett I Read Representative Taylor's HUFFPOST Article



Center Director Shelby Emmett fired back with a corrective response to Wisconsin Rep. Taylor's HUFFPOST piece about the ALEC campus speech model policy, the Forming Robust and Open University Minds (FORUM) Act... (read full response)

Center Update

Shelby Emmett Hosted Campus Speech Panel

Contact Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org



Center Director Shelby Emmett participated in a panel at the State Policy Network's Annual Meeting. The panel discussed both current and potential reforms to protect free speech on college campuses. Other speakers included Guy Benson of Townhall Media and Robert Shibley of Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

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Digital Exchange - September 7, 2017



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Connecticut's GDP Hurt by State Income Tax

Thurston Powers I Hartford Courant



Thurston Powers, ALEC Tax Analyst, authored op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* on the state's growing deficit due to its corrective sales tax increase... (more)

NEW VIDEO: ALEC Policy 101

The FORUM Act - A Model Policy Proposal

Shelby Emmett I ALEC Model Policy



Shelby Emmett, Director of the Center to Protect Free Speech, talks about the new model policy, the FORUM Act. The video explains how legislators can better protect free speech on college campuses... (view)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL TOMORROW Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



Tomorrow, at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. Join the discuss on the Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act. Click here for callin details.

Expert Opinion

Violence Next Time Stephen Moore I Townhall

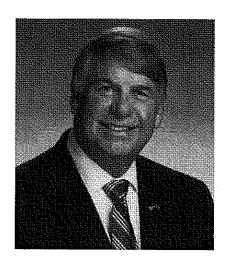


Stephen Moore, ALEC friend and contributor, recounts his first-hand experience with violent protesters disrupting the 2016 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. The *Townhall* article provides a poignant view of constructive protests v. organized violence recently seen in the news... (more)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Ed Jackson I TN-27



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks are proud to introduce Senator Ed Jackson, of Tennessee's 27^{th} District. This weekly Q&A profile showcases legislators who embody the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. This series introduces key legislators to ALEC members. Here's an excerpt:

"At my first ALEC meeting, I was able to learn about problems, not just in Tennessee, but issues all states were struggling with." (read Q&A)

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Subject: Are You Hiring Leaders?

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How to avoid common hiring mistakes

Why leaders keep hiring the wrong people and how to stop it

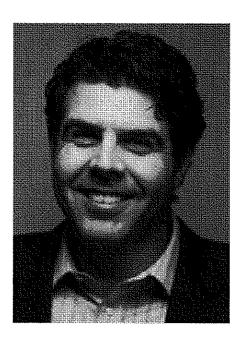
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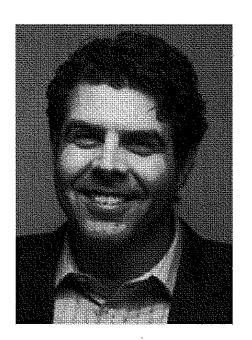
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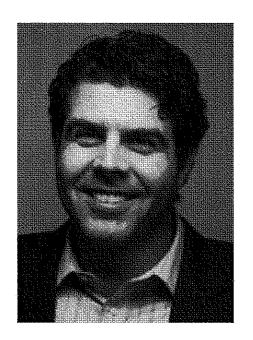
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We thought you would be interested in article "Influx of Puerto Ricans after Hurricane Maria could tip Florida toward Democrats"

Ray Haynes -- former California State Senator, former ALEC National Chair

Saul Anuzis -- former Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party

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Influx of Puerto Ricans after Hurricane Maria could tip Florida toward Democrats

By James Hohmann Washington Post September 28, 2017

THE BIG IDEA: More than 50 million ballots were cast by Floridians in the seven presidential elections from 1992 through 2016. If you add them all up, only 18,000 votes separate the Republicans from the Democrats. That is 0.04 percent.

Florida is rightfully considered the swingiest of swing states. Control of the White House in 2000 came down to a few hundred hanging chads - and one vote on the Supreme Court. The past four statewide elections -

two governor's races and two presidentials - were all decided by a single percentage point.

So it could be quite politically significant that tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans, maybe more, are expected to permanently move into Florida as the result of Hurricane Maria. The Category 4 storm has wreaked havoc on the U.S. territory of 3.4 million. Most of the island still doesn't have power a week after Maria made landfall. There are shortages of fuel, medicine, food and running water. Infrastructure that was already crumbling is in ruins.

Puerto Ricans are American citizens, thanks to a law passed in 1917. As a result, all they need to settle in the mainland is a plane ticket or a berth on a boat.

Their citizenship entitles them to vote, and they tend to overwhelmingly support Democratic candidates.

Florida-based Republican operative Rick Wilson thinks the hurricane might be a game changer. "If you put an influx of 100,000 Puerto Ricans who vote Democratic eight times out of 10 in the Orlando area, there you go," he said. "Nobody can afford a big change in the registration pattern or a change in the voting pattern that offsets Florida's narrowness. You could end up with a big advantage for Democrats in 2018 if they play it right. The Puerto Ricans would be coming here because they feel like Donald Trump left them high and dry. That won't fade away. ... It could be a very, very big deal."

Hurricane Katrina had an impact on Texas politics because almost half a million people, mostly African Americans, relocated there from the New Orleans area. "It made Louisiana more red and Texas a bit more blue," said Wilson, who has long been critical of Trump. "Texas could absorb it."

"I don't know if you can say this changes the whole demographic game," said Democratic strategist Steve Schale, who directed Barack Obama's Florida campaign in 2008 and was a senior adviser in 2012. "There are still 20 million people, so a couple hundred thousand here or there isn't a huge deal. But, at the margins, everything matters! It doesn't take a lot."

- -- Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has told the White House that the federal government needs to quickly take over recovery efforts on the island to prevent a Hurricane "Katrina-style" disaster. "This has the potential of being a serious humanitarian crisis in a U.S. territory impacting United States citizens," Rubio told Politico's Marc Caputo on Tuesday after returning from a trip to inspect the dire situation in San Juan.
- -- The number of people of Puerto Rican origin living in Florida already surpassed 1 million in 2015, which is more than double what it was in 2000. Cuban Americans now representless than one-third of Florida's eligible Hispanic voters.

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A deep recession on the island, combined with a crime wave, caused an exodus to Florida. Puerto Rico's population declined by 7 percent from 2010 to 2015, or roughly 300,000 people. The island's government, saddled with \$73 billion in debt, declared bankruptcy in May. Maria may supercharge these long-term trends and prompt many who had been trying to hold on to finally give up and flee.

They have primarily settled in the Orlando metropolitan area, which is part of the pivotal Interstate 4 corridor. "Because so many Puerto Ricans have already migrated here, it is easier now," said Schale, who is based in Tallahassee. "They have homes to go to and support networks in place, which also makes it easier to stay."

-- Frustration stemming from Trump's initially lackadaisical response to Hurricane Maria might make these new voters even more antagonistic to the GOP. The president has resisted opening up the port of San Juan to foreign ships, for example, and he hasn't appeared as worried about the damage as he was when he went to Texas for Hurricane Harvey and Florida for Hurricane Irene.

Trump has been pilloried in the Spanish-language press for launching a culture war against the NFL amid the suffering in Puerto Rico. He tweeted more than a dozen times over the weekend about the national anthem, but he was silent and seemed unsympathetic about the damage from the hurricane.

On Monday night, pop star Marc Anthony tweeted angrily at the president: "Mr. President shut the [expletive] up about NFL. Do

something about our people in need in #PuertoRico. We are American citizens too." The post quickly got more than 89,000 retweets and 221,000 likes. Other Latino celebrities like Ricky Martin, Pitbull and Jennifer Lopez also tried to call more public attention to the misery on the ground.

"On Monday when we realized that the president had spent the weekend fighting with football players and their mothers, we realized, 'Wait a minute. This guy hasn't said anything about us," said Luis A. Miranda, a Democratic consultant in New York who is of Puerto Rican descent. "What crystalized it was Marc Anthony's tweet. ... Trump's tweets are red meat for the third of the country - his base - that is the only thing that he has left. A tweet about Puerto Rico is not good red meat for his base, so he'd rather fight about the American flag and what African American athletes do to raise consciousness."

Miranda is a board member of the Latino Victory Project, which helps identify and assist Latino candidates running for office. (He's also the father of Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of "Hamilton.") He said it is crucial for Democrats to capitalize on the new wave of immigrants. "We have to register people and we need to give them good reasons to vote," Miranda said. "We cannot just go to them three months before the election and say, 'Vote Democratic,' or 'Vote for this candidate.' ... Something that energizes people a bit is when there are good Latino candidates."

-- In the face of growing criticism and devastating visuals on cable news, the administration is finally ratcheting up its response. "In the first six days after the hurricane made landfall ... the Navy had deployed just two ships, citing concerns that Puerto Rico's ports were too damaged to accommodate numerous large vessels. But harrowing reports of isolated U.S. citizens struggling in the heat without electricity and running low on food and water have now spurred the Pentagon to throw resources into the relief effort," The Washington Post's Arelis R. Hernández, Dan Lamothe, Ed O'Keefe and Joel Achenbach report on the front page of today's paper. "The more robust approach includes the deployment of the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship that has responded to other natural disasters. The Pentagon also has assigned an Army general as point person for the humanitarian crisis: Brig. Gen. Richard C. Kim ...

- "Puerto Rican officials said that 10 military vessels are en route to the island and that half should arrive within 48 hours. A ship arrived Tuesday with 262,000 barrels of fuel for distribution to gas stations across the island.
- "The Pentagon's effort to date remains smaller than relief operations marshaled after other major natural disasters, including Katrina in 2005 and the 2013 typhoon that devastated the Philippines. In those cases, the military established a joint task force led by a three-star general."
- -- Leading Florida Republicans have been taking this crisis much more seriously than the White House since the beginning. They clearly recognize the political risk of antagonizing a political bloc this big in their own backyard.

Gov. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), who may challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson next year, is flying to Puerto Rico today to help coordinate recovery efforts on the island. "On Tuesday Scott placed the National Guard on standby to help Puerto Rico," the Orlando Sentinel reports. "He visited Kissimmee on Wednesday to meet with volunteers helping Maria recovery efforts."

Former governor Jeb Bush has been posting stories about the devastation on social media. "Time to take it up several notches," he tweeted yesterday, linking to a story about people being unable to get medical care on the island. On Monday, Bush retweeted this post from a former governor of Puerto Rico:

Republicans also see opportunities to make inroads with Puerto Ricans. They tend to identify as socially conservative, and while they vote for Democrats they don't strongly identify with the party.

The LIBRE Initiative, which is part of the Koch network, has spent millions trying to engage with the Puerto Rican community across Florida over the past few years. The effort tries to give Latinos tools for upward mobility, such as offering English classes in Orlando, Kissimmee and Miami. The group is working to help new arrivals from Puerto Rico with training for job interviews, etc.

-- The types of Puerto Ricans coming in this new wave are likely to look slightly different from the ones who came before. The average

immigrant who has come in recent years tended to be younger: searching for jobs and opportunities. "You're going to see a lot of frail people or elderly people with health needs who will be overrepresented in this flow," said Edwin Meléndez, the director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York. "The health infrastructure has crumbled. ... It will continue to be younger people searching for employment, but across the board it will also be more people who are dependent on government to survive."

Mel= 3ndez expects a lot of retirees to come to Florida who have heretofore been reluctant to leave their home towns. "People can't talk to their families right now, but the minute people can get through to their families, they're going to start buying them airplane tickets to get out of there," he said. "It's chain migration. ... Florida is kind to the elderly. People have the same Social Security card, whether they're here or in Puerto Rico."

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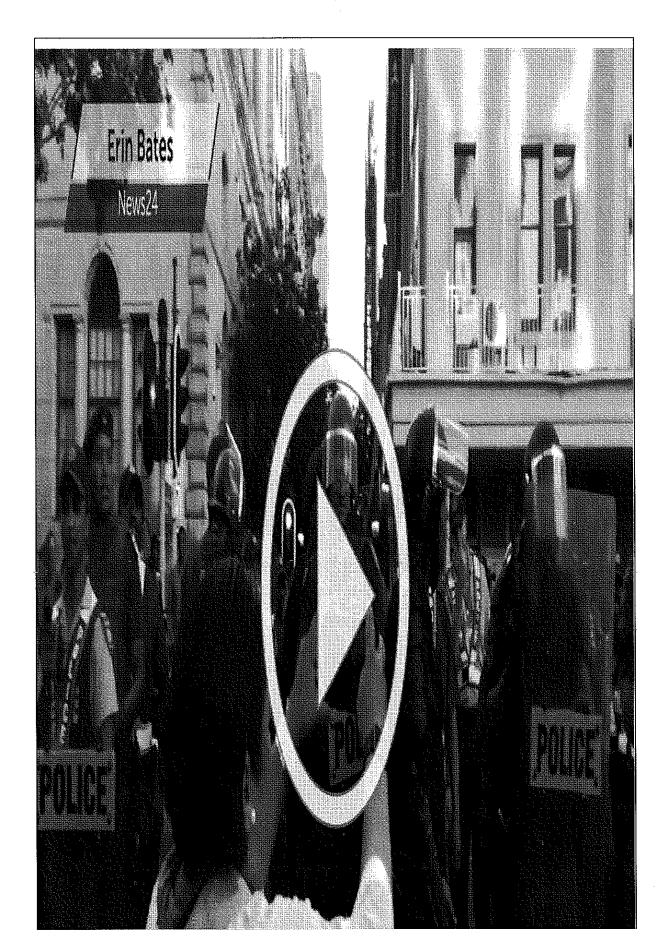
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Subject: One Man Made the 27th Amendment Possible

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Newsletter - Edition 58

November 2017

Providing Article V / Federalism News and Scholarly Resources Since 2013

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One Man's Efforts Led to the 27th Amendment -

It's a story that few know. One person's grassroots perseverance can... and did... make a difference.

One Constitutional scholar refers to Gregory Watson as "the 'step-father' of the 27th Amendment". In 1982, as a 19-year-old sophomore at University of Texas-Austin, Watson wrote a paper on a proposed Constitutional amendment that James Madison had authored in 1789 along with a package of amendments which became known as the Bill of Rights. The extra amendment, prohibiting a sitting Congress from raising its own wages during its current session, had never been ratified by a sufficient number of states.

Watson's paper suggested that Madison's proposal could still be ratified since it was proposed with no time limit for ratification. His professor thought the idea was unreasonable, and gave him a C on the paper. Convinced that Madison's proposal had merit and could still be ratified, Watson launched his own personal self-financed campaign to get the nearly two dozen additional needed state legislatures to ratify the forgotten proposition.

It took until 1992 when Alabama and New Jersey raced to become the 38th ratifying state. Shortly thereafter the United States Archivist certified the amendment as having been properly ratified under terms of Article V of the Constitution, and published it in the federal register. That's how the 27th Amendment came into being... mostly through the determined work on one grassroots citizen.

Mr. Watson still lives in Texas and has offered his services to the <u>BBA Task Force</u> to help shepherd the BBA effort to completion. What are needed are a few more state legislators and grassroots citizen activists to demonstrate Watson-like "heroic citizenship."

Phoenix Correspondence Commission Is Being Organized -

Shortly after the Phoenix BBA Planning Convention concluded, Arizona State Rep. David Stringer wrote a report for **PrescottEnews.com**. Headlined **Witness to History**, the Stringer piece said the "Phoenix Convention marks an historic effort by the states to use their powers under Article V of the federal Constitution to stave off the day of reckoning."

Stringer said, "The power of Washington DC in state/federal relations has become so dominant that it is easy to understand why many people unfamiliar with the Constitution assume the states are political subdivisions of the national government. In fact, it's the other way around. The federal government was created by the states and they retain sovereignty under our federal system."

Pointing out how the federal government finances a large percentage of the national government with borrowed money Stringer said, "The persistence of these circumstances has convinced many state legislators, myself included, that our national government is on a collision course with economic reality. Left unchecked, our growing national debt will destroy our economy, impoverish our people and threaten our existence as a sovereign nation." The Stringer op-ed can be read <u>HERE</u>.

One of the main accomplishments of the Phoenix Convention was creation of what the delegates dubbed the **Phoenix Correspondence Commission** (PCC). While still being organized, the PCC is to consist of commissioners appointed by state legislatures to (a) create a single point of contact to act as a liaison with Congress, (b) track all applications for a convention for proposing amendments, (c) create a process to suggest a time and place to Congress for a convention for proposing amendments, and (d) to foster communication between the states on all matters relating to an Article V convention of states.

Arizona State Rep. Anthony Kern, Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory, Phoenix Convention Secretary David Guldenschuh and Phoenix Convention President (AZ Rep.) Kelly Townsend are currently working on a proposed organizational statement of purpose and other organizational documents for the new PCC. They hope to contact all the Phoenix Convention commissioners to provide an update and request feedback during November.

The Federal Debt Has Increased for 60 Straight Years -

According to official numbers published by the U.S. Treasury, as of 10-23-2017 total federal US debt stood at \$20,435,639,346,821.03. That makes fiscal 2017 the 60th year in a row that the federal government has increased this nation's debt. (Source <u>HERE</u>.)

On October **4 CNSNews.com** Editor-in-Chief Terence P. Jeffrey wrote a piece noting that *"The last fiscal year in which the federal debt declined was fiscal 1957."* His article includes a chart which documents the dramatic climb in America's indebtedness, along with exact year-by-year figures. See Jeffrey's article HERE.

Meanwhile the **Peter G. Peterson Foundation** published a chart showing that if something is not done to stop the grown of federal debt, by 2050 the largest category in the federal budget will be interest on the debt. The chart suggests that by 2026 interest expenses will surpass the budgets for Defense, and non-Defense discretionary

spending. It projects that federal debt service costs will demand more money than Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid and money for Defense categories by 2050. See their chart HERE.

The lead editorial in the October 11 **Wall Street Journal** recounted similar information, noting that during fiscal years 2016-17 the budget deficit grew by 3.5% of the national economy, during which time federal revenues grew by a mere 1%. They suggest "deficits will explode without faster growth". Sadly, the editorial made no comment about the simultaneous need for restraint in federal spending.

A recent article in **The Hill** (covering the Phoenix BBA Planning Convention) underscored this reality. Under the heading *If Washington fails to fix America's debt crisis, states will take action*, the writers reported, "By the end of 2016, [federal] debt stood at nearly 106 percent of GDP, a level rivaled only by the years 1945 to 1947." That article also said, "If Washington doesn't come up with real solutions to our federal debt, expect state-based efforts like those being discussed in Arizona to continue to gain traction." Read The Hill article HERE.

Another **The Hill** article states, "The deficit is at \$20 trillion. The debt-to-gross domestic product ratio is over 100 percent, a point where economies begin to fail." Read it HERE.

US House Clerk's Article V Listings Still Incomplete -

In January 2015, under the leadership of US Rep. Steve Stivers, the US House adopted an Article V-related House Rule. The Rule, renewed in 2017, created a system for the U.S. House of Representatives to track, document and count the number of incoming Article V convention petitions from state legislatures.

As of October 21, 2017 the House Clerk's web site included 159 listings going back to 1960. Only 20 of the applications submitted by state legislatures since 2000 are included

on the site. That includes 14 of the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) applications, but does not include Arizona. Only 7 of the 12 Convention of States Project (CoSP) applications submitted during that time are shown.

= ATo track the applications listed by the US Clerk's office, click <u>HERE</u>.

ALEC 'States & Nation Policy Summit' Set for Dec. 6-8 -

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) will host its 2017 'States & Nation Policy Summit= 2 in Nashville, TN this year. There will again be an emphasis on the need for an Article V convention of states.

One of the speakers will be former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli who will talk about how states can address the growing national debt through the use of Article V. Cuccinelli made a similar... rousing? 6 presentation at the September convention of states in Phoenix. Other speakers will include Larry Ludlow, Steven Moore, Steve Forbes and Art Laffer.

Andrew Rodney of **Debate 28, LLC** is in the process of producing an 86-minute documentary on how Americans are being harmed by the nation's heavy federal governmental indebtedness. Footage for that documentary, tentatively titled "Balance of Power", was shot at the Phoenix BBA Planning Convention. Mr. Rodney will be showing a brief "teaser" segment of the yet-to-be-finished documentary at the December ALEC convention. He expects the finished product will be shown sometime next year on PBS television, and possibly other outlets.

For more info about the ALEC Nashville event, click HERE.

A few weeks ago Karla Jones, Director of the ALEC Task Force on Federalism and International Relations, gave a presentation about Article V to the Tennessee Senate

Judiciary Committee.

Her entire presentation, entitled, "Creating Rules of Procedure to Govern a Convention for Proposing Amendments Pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution" can be read HERE.

CoSP Reports it Now Has 3 Million Supporters -

The **Convention of States Project** (<u>CoSP</u>) has reported that it now has three million grassroots supporters nationwide. That count is based on the number of activists and pledge signers that the organization has racked up in its 4-year-old existence.

"The time is now for bold action and rock-solid leadership, something missing from Congress, but found in millions of citizens rising up to restore their power by using the Constitutional solution found in Article V," said Mark Meckler, co-founder of the Convention of States Project.

Meanwhile **Townhall.com** and **ConservativeReview.com** reported that CoSP received what both sites headlined as "**Another Big Endorsement**", Conservative pundit Ben Shapiro. Commenting on Shapiro's support, Meckler said, "I think he's one of the smartest guys commenting on politics today … I think he has a really unique voice because he's so much younger than most commentators. He really speaks to Millennials."

Shapiro is reported to have said, "I absolutely support the Convention of States Project, designed for fulfilling the Constitutional methodologies for protecting our rights. Article V exists so that the people have the final say, not the federal government."

Read the Townhall piece <u>HERE</u>, and the ConservativeReview article <u>HERE</u>.

= Aln recent weeks the CoSP effort has seen some progress. In Michigan the House

Committee on Government Operations passed the CoSP resolution (HJR V) and referred the measure for second reading in the House. In Nebraska, State Sen. Steve Hallor spoke at a town hall meeting in support of the CoSP resolution which he introduced (LR6) earlier this year... in an attempt to round up the 2 or 3 remaining votes needed in the upcoming session.

In mid-October, **Catholic Online** published a piece about Texas voting to adopt the CoSP resolution. The author describes Article V as "a safety feature, a check on the potential excesses of Congress contrary to the will of the citizens of this country." Read the entire article <u>HERE</u>.

A Winning Strategy for State Legislative Candidates –

Recently a former state legislator and Article V activist suggested a winning strategy for claiming or re-claiming a seat in any state legislature. If the candidate is willing to stand behind his/her words, when asked, "Why are you running for the state legislature?"... offer the following reply:

"The greatest threat to our liberty, and our country, is the Congress of the United States. Year after year, under Republicans or Democrats, it spends a trillion dollars it doesn't have. If it isn't forced to mend its ways we'll be bankrupt. Under the Constitution, there is only one control on Congress, and that is the state legislatures. Under Article V, if they act together, state legislatures can force it to balance the budget. So that's why I'm running for the state legislature. I want the states to intervene, as they have the right to do, and get the federal government under control. If you want something done about Congress, vote for me."

Okay, that may not be a winning strategy in every state. But candidates in every state should be cognizant of voter wishes in their district. Repeated polling has shown that in most states 70-80% of voters have openly expressed support for a BBA, and most of them

understand that such a Constitutional amend will never come from Congress.

Don't miss out on a winning strategy in your state.

Will New York State Hold a Constitutional Convention? -

This month New York voters will decide if they want to hold a constitution amending convention... a convention to consider amending their own state constitution. The NY constitution, adopted in 1846, mandates that voters be asked this question: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" Fourteen state constitutions have similar provisions, effective in different years.

The question is on this year's ballot is known as "Proposal 1". It is the 13th time it has been asked. In all those years NY voters have said "Yes" to that question only 4 times, and only once said "Yes" to proposed amendments that came out of the resulting conventions.

Interestingly, the League of Women Voters (which opposes an Article V convention) is among the groups supporting a "Yes" vote on the NY question. If approved, the NY convention would open the entire state constitution to potential amendment proposals... unlike an Article V convention which would be restricted to the subject(s) for which it was called.

On October 7 voters in the state of Louisiana approved three amendments to their state constitution. Over the years that state has reportedly adopted 186 amendments to its constitution. According to the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR), a nonpartisan think tank based in Baton Rouge, 92 of those amendments have dealt with the state budget, taxes and other financial issues.

Rob Natelson Releases New Article V-related Policy Brief -

Acknowledged Article V expert and Constitutional scholar Rob Natelson has just released a new Policy Brief entitled: "Why the Constitution's 'Convention for Proposing Amendments' Is a Convention of the States". Heartland Institute, where he serves as senior fellow in constitutional jurisprudence, published Natelson's latest work.

The 28-page Brief is broken into 6 parts ranging from review of a related Supreme Court decision, to a detailed history of interstate conventions, to details on amendment ratification... and includes 10 pages of documentation/references. It is a publication every state legislator should read.

Natelson's excellent Brief concludes, "A convention for proposing amendments is a convention of the states. That conclusion is supported by history previous to the Constitution's ratification, by numerous explicit and implicit statements from the Ratification Era, and by the constitutional design." Read it HERE.

New Book: Fiscal Rules to Limit Federal Deficit Spending 歹 0

Economists John D. Merrifield (University of Texas at San Antonio) and Barry W. Poulson (professor emeritus of economics at the University of Colorado) have just released their new book 'Restoring America's Fiscal Constitution'. The book offers "clear, timely, and on point well-chosen fiscal rules that constrain and impose discipline on democratic government budget policies..." according to Marvin Phaup of George Washington University.

Another reviewer, Randall G. Holcombe of Florida State University, says, "Merrifield and Poulson clearly show the fiscal challenges that lie ahead for the United States government, and drawing from experience—both good and bad— from Switzerland and other European countries, suggest a set of fiscal rules to limit deficit spending. Their ideas

are both sensible and politically palatable. They provide a superb blueprint for fiscal reform."

The writers themselves (in an **Investor's Business Daily** commentary) say their book shows "how fiscal rules could be designed to balance the [federal] budget and reduce debt to tolerable levels over a two-decade period." Read that piece <u>HERE</u>.

Although the book focuses mostly on economic issues relating to the suggested new fiscal rules, the final two chapters 'A Roadmap to Restore America's Fiscal Constitution', and 'Reopening the Constitutional Road to a Balanced Budget Amendment' will be of special interest to advocates of an Article V BBA.

Published by Lexington Books, the new book can be purchased <u>HERE</u>.

Congressional Term Limits are On Their Minds -

"Today's [US] Senate is populated with careerists: professional politicians. Such politicians can be more attuned to the interests of their donors than to those of their constituents," says Jon N. Hall in his "Repairing the U.S. Senate" article published during October by American Thinker.

Hall says, "If we're ever to get term limits for Congress, the Constitution must be amended. Because the swampy careerists in Congress are never going to initiate such an amendment themselves, we'll probably need to have an Article V constitutional convention." Both the Convention of States Project and U.S. Term Limits are working on such a proposal.

Michael Betrus is a high school senior who runs **HighwireDaily.com**, his own news website and has been published by the **Washington Examiner** as well. Betrus recently wrote an opinion piece entitled "Why Term Limits Are Needed to Make America Great"

Again". He opines "The longer representatives and senators spend in Washington, the more out of touch they become with the rest of America."

Read Hall's piece HERE... and the Betrus piece HERE.

Act 2 Refined... Another Proposal for Using Article V -

Colorado resident Frank W. Keeney has spent the last several years observing the shortcomings of America's federal government, and brainstorming ways to fix the federal government. A few years ago he announced "Act 2 Blueprint" as his solution.

Keeney has refined his proposals into five suggested Constitutional amendments "to Rejuvenate America". His proposals have more of a procedural focus, in contrast to the policy focus of other Article V efforts. He believes the timing is now right to launch a program to promote the Act 2 reform proposals, but being an older gentleman, he is looking to hire an Executive Director to move things forward.

The Act 2 Blueprint proposals are succinctly set forth in a Keeney-produced booklet which can be obtained by writing to him at Act2reform@gmail.com. Anyone interested in leading a new Article V movement based on the Act 2 Blueprint is also welcome to contact him at 303-932-9339.

Who Said It?

Talking to state legislators about the BBA-focused Article V effort at the kick-off dinner for the Phoenix BBA Planning Convention,

he admonished them:

"Lead, follow, or get out of the way!"

Ken Cuccinelli, former Virginia Attorney General

This Newsletter is produced by

Colorado State Senator Kevin Lundberg (senatorlundberg@gmail.com)

and New Mexico State Representative Yvette Herrell (yherrell@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor - Stuart MacPhail (CitizenAmend@aol.com)

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From government chatbots that respond to citizen queries to municipal infrastructure that predicts necessary repairs, the public sector of tomorrow has the potential to be significantly smarter than it is today. But improvements will not happen soon enough or extensively enough unless policymakers insist on these changes. While some government agencies have taken first steps towards smarter government, all levels of government face significant obstacles that limit their ability and willingness to embrace data-driven innovation. Given the magnitude of the benefits at stake—more responsive government, new and more efficient public services, and increases in public safety, public health, and quality of life—policymakers should take steps to overcome these obstacles and accelerate the transformation to smarter government.

Join the Center for Data Innovation for a conversation with public and private sector leaders about how data, artificial intelligence, and connected technologies can make all levels of government smarter and the steps policymakers should take to enable these changes.

= ASpeakers: David Bray (Executive Director, People-Centered Internet), Alec Chalmers (Director, Public Sector Vertical Sales, Amazon Web Services),
 William Eggers (Executive Director, Center for Government Insights, Deloitte),
 Andel Koester (Associate Director, What Works Cities), Meagan Metzger
 (Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dcode42), Preston Read (Senior

Director for External Affairs, Verizon Smart Communities), Archana Vemulapalli (Chief Technology Officer, Washington, D.C.), and others.

StateScoop is the exclusive media partner for this event.

This event will be live-streamed on datainnovation.org.



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Attached is a good <u>Townhall article</u> from a conservative (former law school Federalist Society chair) on why it makes sense to consider the National Popular Vote Compact.

As a former member of the California legislature and former National Chairman of ALEC, I've had an opportunity to discuss this issue with many of you. I just wanted to share this article for your consideration. Please feel free to email or call me with any comments and questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Surprisingly, Republicans and Conservatives Shouldn't Fear a National Popular Vote

= A By Rachel Alexander *Townhall* December 11, 2017

Republicans are hesitant to switch from our winner-take-all state laws allocating electors to the electoral college to using the National Popular Vote. The National Popular Vote Plan would award all of a state's electors to the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states. There is a fear that such a move will benefit Democrats, since Democrats won the popular vote even though they lost the elections in

2000 and 2016. But the truth is, Republicans are likely going to lose their ability to win the necessary swing state of Florida in the future, and they can win the popular vote by campaigning differently.

The demographics of Florida are changing. More and more illegal immigrants are entering the country. Additionally, Puerto Ricans are flooding the country due to economic chaos and humanitarian crisis following Hurricane Maria at home. When they enter the U.S., because they are American citizens they can vote, and they vote overwhelmingly Democrat. Hillary Clinton had an almost three-to-one edge among Puerto Ricans in Florida last year. Both illegal immigrants and legal Puerto Ricans are counted in the census which is used for determining how many congressional seats and electoral votes Florida receives. This will soon result in an increase in Florida's electoral votes, which will lean more Democratic as increasing numbers of Puerto Ricans vote (this doesn't even take into consideration possible illegal immigrant voter fraud).

It is true that Democrats Al Gore and Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but lost the election. But those weren't true popular vote elections. The Republican candidates they lost to put all their efforts into a handful of swing states, and did a better job campaigning there than the Democrats. In contrast, Clinton's campaign unwisely campaigned in non-swing states such as Arizona, while ignoring the swing state of Wisconsin. If there was a true popular vote election, the Republican candidates would run a completely different type of campaign, likely focusing on mobilizing their base in rural areas and red states. Regardless, Republicans still won the popular vote in 2004.

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A presidential election using the National Popular Vote is not a radical proposal. Critics contend there would need to be a constitutional convention to amend the Constitution in order to change the state-based, winner-take-all rule that most states use to send their electors to the electoral college. This isn't necessary. The electoral college can remain. All the Constitution says about electing the president is in Article II, "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors...." In order to change the system, individual states would merely need to revise state law to send their electors based on the National Popular Vote for the presidential candidates instead of winner-take-all. Currently, all states but two,

Maine and Nebraska, have winner-take-all systems to send their electors to the electoral college.

Critics also claim that using the National Popular Vote in presidential elections would favor big cities over rural areas. This isn't correct. Only one-sixth of Americans live in the 100 biggest cities. In contrast, in the current unfair winner-take-all system, only a handful of states decide presidential elections, the swing states. The 10 most rural states aren't included, nor are 12 of the 13 smallest states. The winner-take-all system does not represent the vast majority of Americans. By the time voting results come in from key swing states, many voters on the West coast don't bother voting because their votes essentially don't count. This hurts minor candidates on the ballot in those states.

Under the current system, presidents shower pork on the swing states in order to get their votes. During the 2004 election, President Bush advocated for and got a trillion dollar expansion of Medicare in order to entice votes from the large population of senior citizens in Florida. Presidents take steps to help the coal industry in order to influence Pennsylvania, and the ethanol industry to help Iowa. Battleground states are twice as likely to receive exemptions from No Child Left Behind as fly-over states and twice as likely to have natural disasters declared.

There is another criticism that a rogue state secretary of state could frustrate the National Popular Vote Compact by refusing to certify the results. This is invalid, since plenty of federal and state laws prohibit that elected official from doing so.

Voter fraud will become more difficult under a National Popular Vote, because crooked party operatives will no longer be able to focus their efforts on just a handful of states, and the windfall of electoral votes for their illicit efforts will be smaller. For the same reason, it also reduces the possibility of recounts.

What did the Founding Fathers prefer? Not winner-take-all. The Founders debated various methods of the electoral college and almost adopted the proportional system at the Constitutional Convention. They never debated a winner-take-all system. As the states began to adopt winner-take-all, in order to ensure that their favorite sons like Thomas Jefferson won, Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton warned in an

1824 Senate speech, "The general ticket system [winner-take-all], now existing in 10 States was ... not [the offspring] of any disposition to give fair play to the will of the people. It was adopted by the leading men of those states, to enable them to consolidate the vote of the State."

There are a significant number of prominent conservatives who understand what is taking place demographically so they support direct presidential elections. They include former congressmen Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Bob Barr (R-GA), former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) and eight former national chairs of the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council.

So far, 11 states have passed laws implementing the National Popular Vote Compact, and it has passed in at least one chamber of 12 other state legislatures, four of which are red states. It will go into effect when enough states have passed it to total 270 electoral votes. When polled (by a left-leaning polling company), 74 percent of Americans support direct presidential elections. This breaks down to 75 percent among Republicans and 78 percent among Democrats. The left naively thinks direct presidential elections will benefit Democrats, assuming that large urban areas will decide elections. This bipartisan support means there is a good chance it will happen.

The purpose of the National Popular Vote bill is to make every voter in every state politically relevant in every presidential election. This is the only way to right size the political influence of battleground states. Clinging to the winner-take-all system is a losing strategy for Republicans. Under that system, they will likely lose Florida by 2020 or 2024 due to demographical changes. It is better to take our chances with a direct presidential election than suffer certain defeat with the unfair, outdated, flawed current system that can and should be reformed.

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National Popular Vote, 990 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

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From: We Are Ohio

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM

To: Rep07

Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

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December 19, 2017

Dear Majority Whip Patton,

As Chairman of We Are Ohio, I am writing to ask you not to sign on as a co-sponsor to Representative John Becker's anti-worker legislation and to oppose Rep. Becker's efforts to hurt working families in your district and across Ohio.

Rep. Becker, we believe, is pursuing an anti-worker agenda pushed by out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

He has outlined six separate constitutional amendments that are all designed to hurt workers, lower wages, decrease safety in the workplace and cause further economic insecurity for the people that you serve.

On behalf of We Are Ohio, I'm asking you to stand for workers in your district and our state and to stand against these out-of-state parties. I'm sure you would agree that Ohio elected officials should represent the people of Ohio, not out of state interests.

We Are Ohio was formed in 2011 when a similar threat to workers' security was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. We asked the citizens to veto Senate Bill 5 that year and restore collective bargaining rights to public sector employees, and they responded with historic numbers.

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans signed petitions to put the citizens veto on the ballot, 17,000 Ohioans volunteered for the campaign and, on Election Day, 2.1 million Ohioans voted to veto Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 margin.

We Are Ohio has remained a force since then. We have held meetings all across the state, have a huge online presence and maintain a database and email list of nearly 1 million voters who agreed with us in 2011.

We believe that the prudent course here is for the legislature to steer away from any anti-worker laws, amendments or ballot initiatives and we ask for your support.

Governor Kasich has acknowledged that such legislation does not attract business to our great state.

I'm respectfully asking you to tell Reprsentative Becker that his ideas are harmful and divisive and that we don't want history to repeat itself.

= 9 Sincerely,

Christopher Mabe

Chairman - We Are Ohio

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<u>We Are Ohio</u> 545 E. Town St. Columbus, OH 43215

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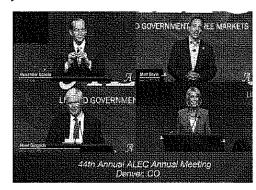
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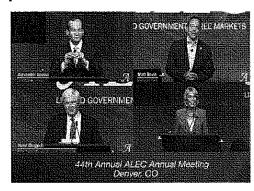
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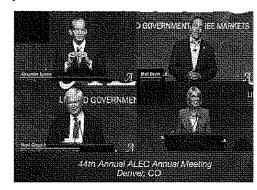
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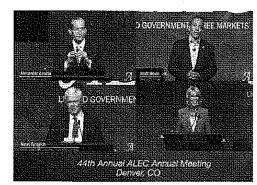
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From: jkeirnswanson@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:04 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: J

Last Name: Keirn-Swanson

Address: 210 The Mall

City: Berea

State: OH

Zip: 44017

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: jkeirnswanson@gmail.com

Subject:

Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Message:

Thomas F. Patton,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckersâ office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

These six proposals would effectively undo labor law that has helped serve as a catalyst to create Ohioâ s middle class.

These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

J Keirn-Swanson jkeirnswanson@gmail.com 210 The Mall Berea, Ohio 44017 From: cline@wilmina.ac.jp

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:21 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: William

Last Name: Cline

Address: 13375 Atlantic Rd.

City: Strongsville

State: OH

Zip: 44149

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: cline@wilmina.ac.jp

Subject:

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William Cline cline@wilmina.ac.jp 13375 Atlantic Rd. Strongsville, Ohio 44149 From: richardcoreno@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:16 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: Richard

Last Name: Coreno

Address: 266 Race St

City: Berea

State: OH

Zip: 44017

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: richardcoreno@gmail.com

Subject:

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Richard Coreno richardcoreno@gmail.com 266 Race St Berea, Ohio 44017 From: hewillprotect@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:20 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: Wm

Last Name: Bretz

Address: 12221 windcliff rd

City: Strongsvile

State: OH

Zip: 44136

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: hewillprotect@gmail.com

Subject:

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Wm Bretz hewillprotect@gmail.com f2221 windcliff rd Strongsvile, Ohio 44136 From: janeanndarrow@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:33 AM

To: Rep07

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First Name: Jane

Last Name: Darrow

Address: 8960 village court

City: olmsted falls

State: OH

Zip: 44138

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: janeanndarrow@gmail.com

Subject:

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These six proposals would effectively undo labor law that has helped serve as a catalyst to create Ohioâ s middle class.

These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Jane Darrow janeanndarrow@gmail.com 8960 village court Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138 From: red60wing@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:24 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: Glenn

Last Name: Worley

Address: 10924 Sand Creek Circle

City: Strongsville

State: OH

Zip: 44149

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: red60wing@yahoo.com

Subject:

Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Message:

Thomas F. Patton,

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Glenn Worley red60wing@yahoo.com 10924 Sand Creek Circle Strongsville, Ohio 44149 From: doctorjake48@sbcglobal.net

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: Warren

Last Name: Kerrigan

Address: 460 Old Reservoir Road

City: OH

State: OH

Zip: 44017

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: doctorjake48@sbcglobal.net

Subject:

Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Message:

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Warren Kerrigan doctorjake48@sbcglobal.net 460 Old Reservoir Road OH, Ohio 44017 From: gengen08825@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 6:56 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: Virginia

Last Name: GALLAGHER

Address: 8484 Stearns rd.

City: Olmsted falls

State: OH

Zip: 44138

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: gengen08825@gmail.com

Subject:

Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Message:

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Virginia GALLAGHER gengen08825@gmail.com 8484 Stearns rd. Olmsted falls, Ohio 44138 From: jyantek@lakeerieelectric.com

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 7:21 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: John

Last Name: Yantek

Address: 19242 Hunt rd.

City: Ohio

State: OH

Zip: 44136

Phone: 202,202,2020

Email: jyantek@lakeerieelectric.com

Subject:

Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Message:

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John Yantek jyantek@lakeerieelectric.com 19242 Hunt rd. Ohio, Ohio 44136 From: j.hriczik@csuohio.edu

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 8:43 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

First Name: John

Last Name: Hriczik

Address: 13710 Burlwood Dr

City: Strongsville

State: OH

Zip: 44136-3772

Phone: 202.202.2020

Email: j.hriczik@csuohio.edu

Subject:

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Message:

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John Hriczik j.hriczik@csuohio.edu 13710 Burlwood Dr Strongsville, Ohio 44136-3772